

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 20 remain in this Application.

The independent claims (1, 7 and 14) have been amended. Claim 1 is amended herein to specify that the mount has a handle portion and a head portion, the head portion enlarged in at least one dimension relative to the handle portion and characterized by a surface area progressively angularly diverging from the handle portion. The tape measure receiving slot is located through the surface area of the head portion.

Independent claim 7 has been amended to specify a cam operatively held in the handle portion of the mount and cooperative with the saw blade at one part, an accessible part extending through the mount. The knife blade shuttle includes a manipulable portion accessible through the handle portion of the mount for slidably moving the shuttle along the linear path and for selectively engaging the accessible part of the cam for operating the cam.

Independent claim 14 has been amended to delete references to rasp teeth and a saw blade (now found in dependent claim 20), but to specify first and second resilient clips at the first and second housing portions adjacent to the slot defined in the mount and configured

to cooperatively grip a tape measure blade received in the slot.

Different ones of the dependent claims have been amended, primarily in view of amendments made to the dependent claims.

In the official action, the Examiner rejected independent claim 1 as previously presented as being anticipated by the teachings in U.S. Patent No. 4,993,093 to Goldwitz under 35 USC 102(b). The Goldwitz patent shows a knife with a tape measure blade receiving slot at one end thereof. There is no teaching or suggestion in this patent of a knife blade shuttle mount having a handle portion and a head portion wherein the head portion is enlarged in at least one dimension relative to the handle portion as now specified in claim 1 of this Application. There is, furthermore, no teaching of such a mount wherein the head portion is characterized by a surface area progressively angularly diverging from the handle portion, with the tape measure receiving slot located through the surface area, as now specified in claim 1 of this Application. It is thus felt that claim 1 as now presented is neither anticipated by nor made obvious in view of the teachings in the Goldwitz patent.

Claims 2 through 6 are dependent, directly or indirectly, on claim 1 and should be allowed when the independent claim is allowed.

Independent claim 7 was rejected in the office action under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious from the teachings in U.S. patent publication no. 2003/0079294 (to Van Deursen et al.) in view of the teachings in the U.S. patent to Goldwitz. The Van Deursen et al. patent publication is cited for its teachings of tool having a housing with a utility knife and a second knife blade combined therein.

Claim 7 has been extensively amended in view of the Examiner's observation that claim 9 would be allowable if rewritten. Claim 7 now incorporates selected limitations from both claims 8 and 9 as previously presented herein related to the manipulable portion of the knife blade shuttle and the accessible part of the cam utilized to release the saw blade (and particularly specifying that the manipulable portion is used to both move the shuttle and selectively engage the accessible part of the cam). There is felt to be no teaching or suggestion of these limitations in either of the applied references, and thus claim 7 is now felt to be allowable over the teachings in the Van Deursen et al and Goldwitz references.

Dependent claims 8 through 13 are dependent, directly or indirectly, on claim 7 and should be allowed with the independent claim.

Independent claim 14 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious from the teachings in U.S. Patent No. 4,890,387 to Canino in view of the teaching in the Goldwitz patent. The Canino patent teaches a combination tool having a utility knife, saw and a rasp.

Claim 14 is amended to include the limitations previously found in dependent claim 20 related to the resilient clips at the housing portions to grip the tape measure blade (certain other claims limitations have been deleted from the claim). There is no teaching or suggestion in the references cited and relied upon by the Examiner of a utility knife tool having such resilient clips (it is felt the Examiner had indicated claim 20 to be allowable for this reason). Thus claim 14, as now presented, is felt to be allowable over the applied U.S. patent references.

Claims 15 through 20 are directly or indirectly dependent on claim 14 and should be allowed when claim 14 is allowed.

The period for response has been extended (for three months, from December 27, 2005 to March 27, 2006) by

Petition for Extension of the Period for Response and fee (\$510.00 for a small entity) submitted herewith.

In view of the foregoing, it is felt that all of the claims now remaining in this Application are allowable, and accordingly, allowance of these claims, followed by passage of this Application to issue, is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted



Harold A. Burdick
Registration No. 32,725

HAB
Telephone: (303) 530-1355